# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2018–2019

## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. If there is a discrepancy between the law and this summary, the law prevails. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, the description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, please refer to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and *Migratory Birds Regulations*. These, along with other useful information for hunters, can be found on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca), or you may contact:

**Environment and Climate Change Canada**
**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**5019, 52 Street**
**P.O. Box 2310**
**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2P7**
**Tel.: 1-800-668-6767**
**ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca**

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

**The Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit is now available online on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca).** Purchase and print your permit from the comfort of home.

**If you are hunting on private lands** (Inuit Owned Lands), ensure you have permission from the Regional Inuit Association.

### Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

The hunting provisions of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* are reviewed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, with input from the provinces and territories, as well as a range of other interested stakeholders. Environment and Climate Change Canada has developed a consultation process for establishing hunting regulations for migratory birds, and publishes the Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Series that can be found on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca).

### Enforcement Tool, Fine Regime, and Sentencing Provisions

In June 2017, the *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations* came into force and administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) are now available to game officers to enforce designated violations of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA) and its associated regulations. In addition, amendments to the fine regime and sentencing provisions of the MBCA and the regulations necessary to complete the fine regime, the *Designation of Regulatory Provisions for the Purposes of Enforcement (Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994) Regulations*, came into force on July 12, 2017. The amendments aim to ensure that court-imposed fines more accurately reflect the seriousness of environmental offenses. The new fine regime will be applied by courts following a conviction pursuant to the MBCA or its associated regulations. Under the new fine regime, when a contravention of a designated provision occurs, the offender upon conviction, is subject to minimum and higher maximum fines. For more information on AMPs and the new fine regime, please visit https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html.

In Nunavut, **non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt migratory birds. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

**Barrow's Goldeneye** is listed in the *Species at Risk Act* as a species of special concern, and the **bag and possession limit of 1** remains in place.

### OPEN SEASONS IN NUNAVUT

| Area | Ducks, geese, coots and snipe |
|---|---|
| Throughout Nunavut | Sept. 1 to Dec. 10, 2018 (a) |

(a) Recorded Snow Goose and Ross's Goose calls may be used when hunting Snow Geese and Ross's Geese; any species of migratory birds for which it is open season may be taken while hunting Snow Geese and Ross's Geese with these calls.

### OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation harvest periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted during the special conservation harvest periods. See the table below for details.

MEASURES IN NUNAVUT CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

| Area | Period during which Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be killed | Additional hunting method or equipment |
|---|---|---|
| Throughout Nunavut | Aug. 15 to Aug. 31, 2018<br>May 1 to June 30, 2019 | Recorded bird calls (*a*)<br>Recorded bird calls (*a*) |

(*a*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.

NOTE

**The 2018 federal permit is also valid for the 2019 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.**

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

| Limits | Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Snow Geese and Ross's Geese | Coots | Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bag | 25 (*a*) | 8 (*a*) | 15 (*c*) | 5 (*e*) | 50 (*g*) | 25 | 10 | 10 |
| Possession | No limit (*b*) | 16 (*b*) | No limit (*d*) | 10 (*d*), (*f*) | No limit | No limit | No limit | 20 |

(*a*) Except in that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 6, of which
(i) not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks and 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, in the area west of 80°15'W longitude, and
(ii) not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks, 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, and 1 may be Blue-winged Teal, in the area east of 80°15'W longitude.

(*b*) Except in that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 18, of which
(i) not more than 6 may be American Black Ducks and 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, in the area west of 80°15'W longitude, and
(ii) not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and 2 may be Blue-winged Teal, in the area east of 80°15'W longitude.

(*c*) In that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are west of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, not more than 5 may be Canada Geese or Cackling Geese or any combination of them.

(*d*) Except in the portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 20.

(*e*) Not more than 2 may be White-fronted Geese.

(*f*) Not more than 4 may be White-fronted Geese. In that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are west of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, there is no limit on Canada Geese and Cackling Geese.

(*g*) Except in that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 20.

NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one half-hour before sunrise or later than one half-hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.



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